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## A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ASSOCIATION COPY

AMONG the early printed books in the Museum collection is a copy of the *Characters* of Theophrastus in Greek and Latin printed by Andreas Cratander at Basle in 1531 'mense Septembri'—for sale at the autumn book-fair at Frankfort. It is an agreeable little octavo of 24 leaves, produced at a time when Basle typography was still among the best in Europe. The title is enclosed in a Holbeinesque border depicting children at play and Cratander's device, the emblematic figure of *Kaiρὸς* or Occasio, appears on the last page. That his Greek type is a crabbed and restless cursive must be blamed on the fashion of the time. The book is of no great rarity and would not call for remark save for an inscription at the foot of the title-page, which runs: 'Ioan Sinapio amico suo And. Cratander D.D.' and is no doubt in Cratander's own hand, bearing a general resemblance to that of Erasmus. Joannes Sinapius (i.e. Johann Senf classicized) was a native of Schweinfurt in Bavaria and besides writing a chronicle of that town gained some distinction as a humanist and Greek scholar. As such he succeeded, while still in his twenties, the more famous Simon Grynaeus in the chair of Greek at Heidelberg in 1529, but found his surroundings so unresponsive that Martin Bucer could say of him that he carried on the study of good letters single-handed. In October 1531 he resigned his professorship and determined to study medicine, with which end in view he started on a journey to Ferrara, where Giovanni Manardi was lecturing with great success on medical subjects. The prospect of crossing the Alps in winter evidently did not appeal to him and his leisurely progress was stayed by a prolonged sojourn in Basle, where he could foregather with other enthusiasts for 'good letters'. Among these was Cratander, a man of some learning as well as a printer, and the booklet here in question may very well represent his parting gift to Sinapius when the latter took the road once more.

Sinapius was well remembered at Basle and several books both of his own and of his Ferrarese friends were published there—in particular what seems to be the first edition of a collection of essays on classical subjects by one Lilius Gregorius Giralduus, printed by Michael Isengrin in 1539. This includes on pp. 122 ff. a number of 'epithalamia' in Latin verse on the marriage of Sinapius to a French lady, Francisca Bucyronia, who was maid of honour to the Duchess of Ferrara. The first is by Giralduus himself, two others are by Bartholomaeus Ferinus, the Duke's secretary, and the last, running to 322 hexameters, is by Joannes Baptista Giralduus, the highly respected *doyen* of the clan. Appended to these are 90 further hexameters composed by the well-known jurist Johann Fichard, of Frankfort, who had been a pupil of Sinapius at Heidelberg, upon an earlier betrothal of Francisca to a French nobleman, which was ultimately broken





off. This addition can hardly be called tactful under the circumstances, but Fichard no doubt considered that such an opportunity of seeing his verses in print would not occur again, in which he was probably right.

The Theophrastus (press-mark: 527. f. 26(1)) has been in the Museum for a very long time. It once formed part of a sizable tract-volume, being paginated 169-216 in early manuscript. A copy of Plutarch's *De tranquillitate animi*, Tiletanus, Paris, 1537, is now bound with it; this, however, seems to have formerly belonged to a different tract-volume.

V. SCHOLDERER















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Scholderer, Victor,  
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